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**Asplenium rhizophyllum, Kunze, var. Biscaynianum, N. Var.**

Plate LXVIII.

Fronds narrowly linear-oblong in outline, a foot or more high,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch wide; pinnae a dozen or more pairs, 8 or 9 lines long, ascending obliquely, the lowest ones scarcely diminished; all but the uppermost pairs cut into about 7 or 8 lobes, of which the lowest superior one is three-lobed, the next one or two two-lobed, and the others simple; all closely placed; upper pinnae gradually smaller and less deeply lobed; sori usually one on each vein and elongated. This form has the large ultimate segments of the coarser form of the species, from which it differs in the much shorter pinnae, and consequently in the linear rather than lanceolate outline of the frond. The pinnules an inch or two below the apex scarcely differ from those of *A. dentatum*, with which, and in company with the *myriophyllum* form of *A. rhizophyllum*, it was associated, as is explained below by Mr. Isaac Holden, of Bridgeport, Conn., who discovered it at Biscayne Bay, Florida, 28th of February, 1887. It seems highly probable that it is modified from the type by the influence of its associate.

NEW HAVEN, April 15th, 1887.

DANIEL C. EATON.

**Notes on some Florida Ferns.**

In southern Florida, on the shore of Biscayne Bay, some four or five miles south of the Miami River, under a projecting arch of the coral limestone, is a well, hollowed in the rock to the depth of some five feet or so, with cut steps leading down to the fresh water at the bottom. This ancient excavation, believed by some to antedate the settlement of St. Augustine, is well known in that region as the "Punch Bowl." By going northerly from this point a quarter of a mile, more or less, through the jungle—hummock, or "hammock," as it is there called—keeping near the slope of the rocks, in which procedure a machete is very useful, there is reached a small, comparatively open space in which stands a cocoanut tree of a few years' growth, apparently planted there by accident, and of remarkable beauty. A few rods beyond this tree is a curved recess in the bank of rock which, as I remember it, is at that point some five or six feet in height. On

the 28th of February of this year, I found the steep sides of this nook well covered with three kinds of ferns in good fruit, a number of specimens of each of which I gathered and took away. Unfamiliar as I was with southern ferns, I did not doubt that I had three distinct species of Spleenwort, but upon subsequent examination of them, and reference to the books on North American ferns, I found that one of the ferns was not described.

These three ferns, of which there were hundreds growing in close proximity or actual contact one with another, were *Asplenium dentatum*, Linn., *Asplenium myriophyllum*, Presl., and a third form of the same genus, larger than either of the others, possessed of those features common to both, having rather the texture and hue of the *dentatum* and a leaf-pattern approximating to that of the *myriophyllum*. I send herewith a specimen of each of the three kinds.

Now, considering that this fern grows in company with *A. dentatum* and *A. myriophyllum* (I do not recollect having seen it otherwise), that it partakes of their characteristics, and is in most respects almost exactly intermediate between them, that it is of more vigorous growth than either of those nearly related species, and that it belongs to a genus the species of which are strongly suspected of sexual looseness, the question arises whether this is not a hybrid product of the two species mentioned.

It is my intention to have a considerable number of specimens of this fern from the locality above described next season, when the question may receive further consideration. In the few specimens I have, the marks of the immediate form appear to be as definite and unvarying as are those of what are considered good species.

ISAAC HOLDEN.

#### Special Uses and Properties of some Mexican Grasses.

Dr. Edward Palmer has been engaged in making botanical collections in Mexico during several years past, and has given particular attention to ascertain the uses to which plants are applied. The following notes, gathered from him, respecting the uses and properties of the native grasses are of interest:

*Bromus segetum*, Schl.—The seeds of this grass are used to assist in the fermentation of a favorite drink called Tejuino, used